



Principled Thoughts

Patrick O'Keefe, Principal

In 1994, brave, passionate people stood together to proclaim a path in our journey. The communities of Assumption, St. Peter's, and St. Richard's would join together to further the foundation of over 200 years of combined educational experience. Blessed Trinity Catholic School would serve as the future of the remarkable work done within and through our community of faith. Two decades later, I am honored to share in this journey and celebrate another remarkable milestone along the way.

As Blessed Trinity turns twenty, we rejoice in the gift of Catholic education in the lives of our families, our parishes, our community and the world. As our school has grown, our mission and work has grown with us. Today, we enjoy the most diverse student population in our history, bringing together families and students that share in the mission to educate our children to their greatest potential as images of God. Together, we build the foundation of the Kingdom here on Earth, through our studies, our formation of faith and the development of people for others. There is truly no greater blessing than joining the remarkable teachers, pastors, parents, friends, and students that have lived that learning every day for the past twenty years.

We continue to grow, as we add new and wonderful opportunities for our students. Our teachers continue to integrate the highest possible learning standards, challenging our students to achieve greater understanding in an evolving and expanding global community. Above and through it all, we are able to form our Catholic faith and values, serving and supporting each other as we walk in the footsteps of Christ.

We thank you, our alumni and friends, for your great gift of community and support. Without your remarkable efforts to blaze a trail, our current paths of learning, love, and community would not be present today. Your remarkable generosity helps bring together students from all backgrounds to carry on this legacy. Thank you, Gracias, Merci, Dangschē, Salamát, 谢谢 (Xièxiè)!

I hope you can join us for our Anniversary Mass on March 19th to celebrate the success of Catholic preschool, elementary and middle school education in Richfield. **Happy 20th birthday to Blessed Trinity! May we continue with prayers and blessings for another 20 years plus!**



CREATING SOMETHING AMAZING

Ann Garland, Financial Administrator

In 1984—yes, **thirty** years ago—a group of folks began consolidation discussions of the three Catholic grade schools in Richfield. Over those ten years, financial models, facility decisions, the name of the school and color of the uniforms, configuration of the grades, hiring of teachers and administration and creation of the school (advisory) board were all decided after meetings that took place twice a month with many hours logged over many weekends. Most remarkable, though, was the energy poured into Catholic education for Richfield children, which is still true today. Those who were part of the consolidation committee, those who were the first employees and the first families and students, were like pioneers working hard to create something amazing. Thank God for them and for Blessed Trinity—a truly amazing school that today delivers a clearly Catholic, intentionally inclusive and academically excellent Catholic education in Richfield!



Winning Blessed Trinity Tigers, coached by alumni & middle school teachers Brian Stock and Jeff Boyle.

CHANGING A PERSON'S LIFE

Laura Kalbfell, Blessed Trinity Alum

You may know my mom, LuAnn Kalbfell, who teaches 4th and 5th grade at Blessed Trinity. I am a Blessed Trinity alum, class of 2003, and I have always wanted to find a way to give back to the school in more than just a general monetary sense.

I was married this past summer and my friends and family who gathered for my bridal shower gave me the opportunity to give back to Blessed Trinity. Instead of gifts, my mom suggested I ask everyone to donate to the girls' basketball program at BT. She said that the school doesn't turn down athletes because they cannot pay, and this was a perfect chance to change a young person's life.

First, a little background on myself. I grew up a very active child. I was always playing some sort of recreational sport. Whether that was basketball, Four Square, driveway hockey, or volleyball, I was always on the move.

I started playing basketball at Blessed Trinity when I was in second grade. It was the typical air ball, double dribble situations. As I began to get older, like other kids, my skills improved. I went on to play high school and even college basketball as a Wildcat for St. Catherine University. Because I had the opportunity to play this sport, my life was changed. Not because I got more rebounds or scored more points than other players, but because I learned skills that help me succeed in my life as an adult. I learned how to stick with something even though it was usually a challenge. I learned how to work together. I learned how to be tough. And, most of all, I learned to believe in myself.

So, long story short, with this donation I want to give other young student athletes the opportunity to learn all of those same things so that they, too, can be successful in life and believe in themselves, like I do. I am not sure how much it costs to pay for an athlete for the season, but to date I have over \$300 to donate to the program. With the generosity of my friends and family who supported me as a young child, we are hoping to give that same opportunity I enjoyed to other kids, too.

(Laura wrote this letter for Blessed Trinity's Athletic Association in September, 2013)



Twenty years of fun & laughter. Twenty years of coming together. Twenty years of preparing

DONORS + GRANTS = GROWING TECHNOLOGY

Jill Elfering, Technology Coordinator

Thanks to many donations and grants, Blessed Trinity's technology has come a very long way in the years I've been with the school. When I started in 2001, the Nicollet Campus computer lab consisted of 20 PCs running Windows NT Workstation. It was impressive that the whole lab was networked! The Penn Campus lab was comprised of a mish-mash of PowerPC Macintosh computers running probably OS 7, and those were not networked. The classrooms at Nicollet each had one computer for teachers to use.

By 2005 several improvements were made thanks to a dedication by our new neighbor, Best Buy, to the kids of Richfield for improving technology in schools. A total of over \$70,000 over three years allowed us to upgrade both computer labs and add a mobile computer lab of laptops at Nicollet. A huge selection of educational software was also purchased for both labs as part of the Best Buy grant

and Richfield Public Schools funds. The Penn lab saw the greatest jump in improvement, moving the lab to a new room and adding network functionality and electrical to support the computers. Science sensors were added to the science lab in middle school, where, with the addition of the laptops, students are able to record measurements of temperature, weight, heart rate, and more. They can connect the devices to the laptop and collect data that then gets charted automatically. LCD projectors were added to both computer labs to allow for display and enhanced instruction. We were able to purchase video cameras, digital cameras, and even a digital piano for the music room at Nicollet.



We added a computerized grading program as well, which has saved time for teachers.

Over the next couple of years funding was harder to come by but we did upgrade the administrative workstations and the file servers. The Penn lab got a wiring upgrade and workstation upgrades in the summer of 2007 thanks to the hard work and generosity of a parent working in technology. Classroom PCs were upgraded at that time as well. We also were the recipients of a great donation from Coordinated Business Systems in the spring of 2008—they donated networkable laser printers: one for each classroom AND the computer labs!

In 2008, we started to apply for E-Rate funds, which are federal discounts for telecom and internet services. We have been able to save about 50-60% on those services each year since starting the program. Because of that help, we were able to afford to upgrade those

services and move our file server and email service "to the cloud," allowing me more time to work with students and teachers rather than administering the server. We are now a "Google Apps for Education" school and the benefits have been tremendous, including a huge cost savings in server maintenance and spam monitoring.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor the mobile lab at Nicollet got a much-needed upgrade in 2009. The school board also made a commitment at that time to purchase a student information

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GROWING TECHNOLOGY

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system, called Cornerstone. A donation from our neighbors at Academy of Holy Angels in the spring of 2009 allowed us to see the benefits of an interactive whiteboard system which proved to whet our appetite for more! Around that time, we were also fortunate to be included in the handful of schools to benefit from the FOCUS (Friends of Catholic Urban Schools) grant, though that benefit would be a couple of years down the road.

KINDERGARTENERS ♥ IWBS

From Scarlett Wand, Kindergarten Teacher

- * The kinders have been so excited about their Interactive White Board (IWB) that they invited their parents to come in during arrival time just to show them how it works! They are gaining confidence using technology and it helps both fine and large motor skills.
- * Teachable moments aren't lost! We often have discussions and our inquiring minds want to find answers for our questions. With this technology the answers can (oftentimes) be found "in the moment" so it is meaningful and relevant. It also helps to build our background knowledge when questions come up—like the difference between the kinds of desserts in the USA verses the Middle East.
- * Our IWB helps make learning fun by integrating technology resources that enhance our curriculum; for example, building sentences using the interactive board with our star words.

In the fall of 2010, Promethean offered a "try before you buy" promotion for their ActivBoard systems (Interactive White Boards or IWBs). We registered each campus for one, which we could get for half price if we purchased them. We did! Since then, we have combined generous donations with the Give to the Max campaign to raise funds to use with the Promethean Classroom Matching Funds Program where we have been able to purchase two ActivBoards each year. I am happy to report that we are only about two classrooms away from having an ActivBoard in every full-time classroom at Blessed Trinity! Our teachers are thrilled to have this new tool available to them which streamlines their teaching and makes instruction more engaging for students.

When we made it to the top of their priority list in spring of 2011, Blessed Trinity was granted a brand new iMac lab from what had since become the Legacy Grant (no longer FOCUS). This lab continues to have a positive impact on technology integration with its built-in creative tools. Teachers are using video editing and more digital learning tools with students each year.

The improvements didn't stop there, though. In the fall of 2012 we applied for a telecommunications grant offered by the

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission with funds from Qwest Corporation (dba Century Link). We were thrilled to learn our program would be fully funded; and as a result, we were able to install school-wide wireless! In addition to that excitement, we were again the recipients of a generous grant for technology improvements. We prepared a plan that requested some additional support from the Legacy Grant. In addition, the Legacy Grant funds were matched by our 2012 Give to the Max donors which resulted in probably our largest upgrade to-date. We added brand new MacBook Pro laptops for teachers, brand new Lenovo workstations for our administration and staff, Apple TVs and digital wiring for the ActivBoards, and a set of iPads for each campus!

You can see a consistent trend through all of these upgrades and improvements: donations and grants. We do not currently have a technology budget at Blessed Trinity. We rely solely on the generosity of our community and the availability of grants to make these improvements. We pray for our donors each day and thank them for making these improvements to our growing program possible! It is truly opening educational and curriculum doors for our teachers and students and preparing our graduates for success at whatever high school they choose.

of love. Twenty years of nurturing. Twenty years of achievement. Twenty years of success.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

from Terry Braun, Development Director

Celebrating 20 Years of Innovative Teaching, Involved Parenting & Fun-Filled Learning

It is hard to believe 20 years have passed. In 1994, after years of planning meetings, collaboration and even some division, Blessed Trinity opened its doors. The three separate parish schools joined together to form a brand new adventure and one of the strongest Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each school—Assumption, St. Richard’s and St. Peter’s—had distinct traditions and operations. Each had gifts to share with the newly consolidated school called Blessed Trinity.

Many of these gifts came in the form of families, students, and teachers. One of the hallmarks of Assumption, St. Richard’s and St. Peter’s was the dedication of the staff. Blessed Trinity is too blessed by staff that has served us for years. Blessed Trinity employs hardworking, faithful and kind people who are lifelong learners. Fourteen faculty and staff members have been a part of Blessed Trinity since year one. That is dedication!

It is our teachers and school families, past and present, that have helped this school grow into an amazing, strong and thriving community built around our love of God and His children. Blessed Trinity is a place where students are nurtured and they thrive. At Blessed Trinity we are building future

leaders of our world and our Church and that is why we have chosen to welcome as many students as possible. Any family that would like to be a part of this wonderful community is welcomed. The hardship of tuition shall not deter our families or our efforts.

This year, as in the past, we have been offered a tuition assistance gift and been given the challenge to match it. Blessed Trinity is trying to match \$55,000 for tuition assistance and we are over half way to our goal!

In addition, as part of our ongoing work with the Archdiocese and the Pohlard Foundation, we are eligible for \$2,750 in matching grant dollars for tuition assistance. This grant is part of an ongoing effort to help attract and retain families who value Catholic education but might not otherwise be able to choose Blessed Trinity. By supporting this effort, we will be able to offer families additional support to make Catholic education possible.

As a Blessed Trinity graduate, employee and now parent I couldn’t be more happy with the history of our school, its growth and continued mission and its promising future. Please consider donating to these matching funds. This money directly supports our school families and helps our amazing teachers nurture and teach the future leaders of our world and our Church. Thank you for helping us to prepare students to live lives of faith, service and citizenship for the last 20 years.



To make a donation on-line, go to www.btcsmn.org and click the *Donate Now* tab.

BLESSED TRINITY DONATION FORM

I want my donation to benefit: \$55,000 Matching Grant for Tuition Assistance Other: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home or Cell Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

My/Our Gift is \$ _____

Payment enclosed (check payable to Blessed Trinity)

Bill my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

3-digit V-Code (found on back of card): _____ Signature: _____

Mail To:

Blessed Trinity Catholic School; Attention: Terry Braun; 6720 Nicollet Avenue South; Richfield, MN 55423

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

from Patti De May, 2013 Spirit of Blessed Trinity Award Winner



"Making the Difference!" is the message emblazoned on the Spirit of Blessed Trinity award that sits on my desk at St. Peter's. Twenty years ago, when I enrolled my first child in kindergarten at Blessed Trinity, I wasn't thinking about making a difference. All I knew then was that I was thrilled to be enrolling my child in a school that would do more than just educate him. I knew he would be in a school where he would learn more about his Catholic faith, about building friendships and self-reliance and that he would be supported by teachers who would help him accomplish all that and more.

Little did I know that along the way I would be encouraged to participate in the every day life of Blessed Trinity. It started innocently: reading

once a week to the kindergarten class. There is no doubt that I enjoyed that activity every bit as much as the kids, probably more. Then I was a chaperone when the first graders went to Orchestra Hall. I had lucked out again! Before long, I had one child at each campus and my picture of life at Blessed Trinity was broadening. Somewhere along the line, I started participating in the Art Adventure program which brings the world of fine art into the classroom. There was also more chaperoning to do on snowshoeing adventures at Wood Lake Nature Center, ski trips and Camp St. Croix. There were meals to make for the great teaching staff during conferences. There were Marathon walks, senior center visits with the kids and, of course, exciting sporting events.

Twenty years later, I still enjoy participating in a variety of activities associated with Blessed Trinity. It's a great school supported by great people. I look with nostalgia and just a bit of envy at the young families who are new to the Blessed Trinity community because I know how much fun they have ahead of them. I encourage them to find ways to become active with the school. Then one day they may find themselves being asked to write a few words about their wonderful experiences with Blessed Trinity because they were "Making the Difference!"

Clearly
Catholic

Intentionally
Inclusive

Academically
Excellent



You Are Invited

Blessed Trinity's
20th Anniversary
Mass & Reception

Wednesday, March 19th
12:15 PM
St. Peter's Church
6730 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield

Special Guests

Bishop Lee Piché
Knights of Columbus

Reception will follow Mass.

Nicollet Campus Tours
offered to those interested.

Blessed Trinity

Penn Campus
Preschool-Grade 3
7540 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, Minnesota 55423
612-866-6906

Nicollet Campus
Grades 4-8
6720 Nicollet Avenue South
Richfield, Minnesota 55423
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www.btcsmn.org